

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The House of Representatives late this evening passed an appropriations bill with funding for the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. The version passed tonight eventually will be sent to president at for approval.

The legislation includes \$925,000 for Central Coast programs secured by Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel). The bill first passed the House in July; this version of the bill includes changes made in conference with the Senate.

"The president has spent the last seven years in the White House neglecting many of our important domestic priorities," said Rep. Farr. "This funding bill is the Democrats' step toward reversing that neglect. Unfortunately, the president has again threatened to veto a crucial bill. It is my hope that he will not hold our domestic priorities hostage as he pursues his conflicts abroad."

Through Rep. Farr's work on the Appropriations Committee, the bill includes funding for the following Central Coast programs:

Gang prevention:

\$450,000 for the Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention program, a \$100,000 increase over the original version.

Healthy communities:

\$175,000 for the Healthy Eating Lifestyle Principles program to replace junk food in vending machines at Salinas Valley schools with fresh fruits and vegetables.

\$125,000 for the Natividad Medical Center to implement a comprehensive Latino Diabetes

Care Management Initiative.

Oceans:

\$75,000 for the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Mar Y Campo: Partners for Conservation, a program to bring ocean science to young native Spanish speakers.

\$100,000 for the O'Neill Sea Odyssey for programs serving low- to moderate-income youth.

This appropriations bill was approved by a vote of 269-142. For more information on these programs or the appropriations process, contact Tom Mentzer at 202-225-2861 or e-mail tom.mentzer@mail.house.gov.

#